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“Children’s Memorial Day” bill headed to Senate

LANSING —A bill that would designate the fourth Friday in April of each year as “Children’s Memorial Day” was passed by a 5-0 vote today by the Senate Local, Urban and State Affairs Committee. SB 224, sponsored by State Senator Mike Goschka (R-Brant Twp.) would memorialize all persons who have lost their lives before reaching 20 years of age.

“People all over this state have loved ones who have died prematurely due to a number of different reasons,” Sen. Goschka said. “Whether it be due to an accident, suicide, disease or some other cause, it is most appropriate that we have at least one day a year in which the state of Michigan officially remembers and honors all young people who have died. I know scores of families whose hearts and minds would be comforted and warmly touched by this legislation.”

Each day in America many children and youths under age 20 are victims of homicide, commit suicide and die from accidents or illnesses.

SB 224 encourages individuals, educational institutions, and social, community, religious and business organizations to pause on Children’s Memorial Day to reflect upon the great number of tragic deaths each year of children, the precious resource they constitute and the loss suffered when a child is lost. The bill does not call for any work stoppages, missed school days or a paid day off.

With favorable recommendation, the bill now goes before the full Senate for consideration.